(b) Aircraft not in operational use are sometimes used for non-operational roles like training role for air defence units.

(c) The gap created by phasing out of the fighter aircraft is filled by induction of new aircraft taking into consideration the required force mix.

Improvement in surveillance capability

4803. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA :

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether one immediate lesson which the Indian armed forces can draw from the US attack is the need to bolster their rather small inventory of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms;

(b) if so, whether with electronic and signal intelligence one can know where exactly to deliver the crippling blows on the enemy's command and control structure;

(c) whether Government have accepted the armed forces requirements of improving the surveillance;

(d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The requirements of the Armed Forces are reviewed for improving the surveillance and related capabilities on a continuous basis keeping in view the threat perceptions and the prevailing strategic environment as also emerging technologies. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

V I P Aircrafts

4804. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has finalised plans to acquire Air Force-I type aircrafts for its VIP entourage of President/PM and the Deputy Prime Minister for visits abroad;

(b) whether these aircrafts would have State-of-the-art anti-missile and advance communication systems; and